



AFAF

Randolph campaign begins Monday, kick-off lunch today at FSC

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

The Randolph Air Force Assistance Fund “Commitment to Caring” campaign begins Monday, focusing on Airmen giving back to their own. A free kick-off lunch open to everyone on base takes place today from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the family support center.

This annual campaign, which runs in conjunction with the Air Force wide AFAF campaign, gives members an opportunity to contribute to any of four Air Force related charities.

The charities support active-duty, Reserve, Guard, Air Force retirees, surviving spouses, and families. Each charity receives 100 percent of designated contributions.

“AFAF focuses on Airmen giving to help each other, whether they need help right now, or perhaps in the future – that is the goal of the campaign,” said Maj. Rick Fofi, Randolph’s AFAF project officer.

“The AFAF is one of few charities that goes straight to programs that help our folks, and you can see the direct impact,” said Lt. Col. Mark Morris, wing safety office, and an AFAF contributor. “This is a chance to help our Air Force family and see the impact and results here at Randolph.”

This year’s monetary goal for Randolph is \$98,000. People can contribute to one of four charities: the Air Force Aid Society, the Air Force Enlisted Villages, the Air Force Village Indigent Widow’s Fund in San Antonio or the General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay Foundation.

People can contribute through cash, check, money order or payroll deduction. Contributions to the AFAF are tax deductible.

“Where I work at the family support center, I get a chance to see the good that the AFAF campaign does,” said Master Sgt. Todd Remington, an AFAF contributor. “The campaign funds programs supporting deployed families and helps people who are in financial crises. If a troop is worried about bills, especially when they are deployed, it is harder for them to focus on the mission. AFAF helps them with challenges back home.”

AFAF base representatives are listed on page 3. For more information on Randolph’s AFAF campaign, call Major Fofi at 652-4931 and for more information about the charities, visit <http://afassistancefund.org>.



Commitment to Caring

Kick-off Cookout

Today - 11:30 a.m.
at the Family Support Center

Open to everyone
Free hotdogs and hamburgers



The main gate guard shack was demolished Saturday as part of the ongoing restructuring of Harmon Drive. A new traffic pattern that routes vehicles into the outbound lanes continues until fall when a new guard shack opens. (Photo by Steve White)

SFS reminds drivers to obey rules of road

Parking lot cut-through dangerous, illegal; violators ticketed

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

The 12th Security Forces Squadron has noticed drivers cutting through parking lots on base in order to avoid long waits in traffic when leaving the base at the end of the day.

Security officials warn motorists this action is illegal and drivers will receive a ticket if caught.

“It is illegal for drivers on base to drive through parking lots, sidewalks or driveways in order to avoid stopping at an intersection,” said Robert Vickers, chief of 12th SFS installation security section.

The most frequented area where this type of violation occurs is at the west parking lot of Building 100, the Taj Mahal, said Mr. Vickers. Drivers are turning off of C Street through the parking lot and onto Northwest Drive to avoid the busy intersection.

“Security forces officials are aware of the problem and will cite those who they witness committing this traffic offense,” said Mr. Vickers. “We ask drivers to be patient with the amount of construction on base and obey the base traffic laws at all times.”

According to Texas Traffic Codes, an operator may not cross a sidewalk or drive through a driveway, parking lot, or business or residential entrance without stopping the vehicle. Also, an operator may

not cross or drive in or on a sidewalk, driveway, parking lot, or business or residential entrance at an intersection to turn right or left from one highway to another highway.

This law is enforced both statewide and on base, said Mr. Vickers.

“These laws were implemented in order to protect pedestrians in certain high-traffic areas,” said Mr. Vickers. “The construction on base has made it difficult to drive around, but not impossible. Ultimately, construction projects will slow down.”

All base motorists are reminded that construction projects do not give drivers the right to ignore the rules of the road, added Mr. Vickers. Detour signs must be followed and in the absence of signs, normal rules apply.

Military members are required to report citations they receive to their chain-of-command and will have points assessed against their driving privileges on base. Civilians and dependents are subject to having citations issued that impose a monetary fine and court appearance at the downtown court office.

Ultimately, the motivation and goal for security forces personnel to continue to enforce base traffic laws is the personal safety of pedestrians and motorists. The cooperation and understanding of motorists is essential to ensuring that goal.

12th FLYING TRAINING WING TRAINING TIMELINE									
As of Monday			Navigator, EWO training				Wing Flying Hour Program		
Pilot Instructor Training							Aircraft	Required	Flown Annual
Squadron	Senior Class	Overall	562nd FTS	563rd FTS					
99th FTS	-0.5	1.3	Air Force	305	Undergraduate	44	T-1A	4568.8	4531.4 12,184
558th FTS	-0.5	0.3	Navy	80	International	0	T-6A	6348.8	6456.0 17,290
559th FTS	-6.0	-3.0	International	0	EWC Course	7	T-37B	3409.6	3392.0 8,284
560th FTS	-2.5	-1.6	NIFT	20	Fundamentals	0	T-38C	3565.9	3683.3 9,729
							T-43	1568.6	1586.8 4,293
<small>Numbers reflect days ahead or behind for senior pilot instructor training class and an average for all PIT classes currently in training.</small>			<small>Numbers reflect students currently in training. The 562nd shows source of navigator students. Air Force students include Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. The 563rd indicates students in specific courses.</small>				<small>The required and flown numbers reflect hours flown between Oct. 1, 2004 to date. The annual numbers are total hours for fiscal year 2005.</small>		

AIR AND SPACE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

As of Monday, 144 Team Randolph members are deployed in support of military operations around the globe



**Dedicated
June 20, 1930,
Randolph
celebrates its
75th Anniversary
in 2005**

Graphic by Michelle DeLeon

**The Randolph
WINGSPREAD**

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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Division of the 12th Flying Training Wing in accordance with local policy and style guidance. All photos, unless otherwise indicated, are U.S. Air Force photos.

Articles for the newspaper should be submitted by noon Thursday the week prior to the desired publication date. Items can be dropped off on a PC- or Macintosh-formatted disk at the Wingspread office in room 110 of Building 100.

Articles may also be sent by e-mail to wingspread@randolph.af.mil or by fax at 652-5412 or base ext. 7-5412.

For more information about submissions, call 652-5760 or base ext. 7-5760.

Commander's Action Line

Call 652-5149 or e-mail
randolph.actionline@randolph.af.mil



While our goal is to provide the best programs, products and services to our customers, there will be instances when people believe we could have served them better.

In those cases, I ask the individual to first contact the responsible organization to allow the unit commander or manager an opportunity to ensure professional and impartial treatment.

When those officials are unable to provide satisfaction, the individual may contact me through the Action Line. I will ensure each Action Line call is looked into and a reply is given by telephone or in writing. I ask callers to include their name and telephone number so we may send a personal response.

Col. John Hesterman
12th Flying Training Wing commander

Agency contact numbers	
12th FTW IG	652-2727
12th FTW Legal Office	652-6781
Base Exchange	674-8917
Civil Engineers	652-2401
Civilian Pay	652-6480
Commissary	652-5102
EEO Complaints	652-3749
Equal Opportunity	652-4376
FW&A Hotline	652-3665
Housing Maintenance	652-1856
Military Pay	652-1851
Randolph Clinic	652-2933
Safety Office	652-2224
Security Forces	652-5509
Services	652-5971
Straight Talk	652-7469
Transportation	652-4314

I want what you have – freedom

Dawn of democracy in Middle East exacts price, resolve remains

By Lt. Col. Zyna Captain
Air Force Doctrine Center

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – On February 11, 1984, I married my husband in a cheap looking wedding chapel by a casino in Lake Tahoe. I was wearing 3-inch heels and carrying daisies. Little did I know that 20 years later, on the exact same day, I would be in Iraq, wearing desert combat boots and carrying a 9mm weapon.

I vividly remember standing in Baghdad as Soldiers from Task Force 1st Armored Division's 4th Battalion, 27th Field Artillery Regiment, were providing aid to victims and securing a blast site. A sedan carrying explosives had just blown up in front of an Iraqi army recruiting station killing 47 Iraqi men.

This was one of many unforgettable events that occurred during my 4-month deployment to Baghdad. This tragedy made me realize how sacred democracy is to people who don't have it and how messy, even our nation was, when giving birth to a new ideal.

Only 11 months after I witnessed the tragic results of the explosion, Iraqis voted in their country's first free elections in 50 years and it's because of America's involvement.

President George Bush said, "In great numbers, and under great risk, Iraqis have shown their commitment to democracy. By participating in free elections, the Iraqi people have firmly rejected the anti-democratic ideology of the terrorists. They have refused to be intimidated by thugs and assassins. The Iraqi people themselves made this election a resounding success."

While I agree that elections were a step toward a brighter future for Iraq, I had an unexpected teacher who humbled me. His reality was that democracy is a material possession and not an ideal. My unexpected teacher was a 14-year old Iraqi boy..

On one of their rare breaks, I asked him what democracy meant to him. To my surprise, he said, "It means the lights come on every time I flip the switch." This was not what I expected to hear so I continued with, "It's got to mean more than that to you." Boldly he said, "It means never being hungry and it means I can go to school."

While none of these answers were what I was after, I didn't pursue it any further. I have a 14 year old, and I know that this idea would never cross his mind.

Out of his young mouth, his words required me to reflect on the facts that for decades, people of his nation were not free from tyranny, and the ideal of democracy was as foreign to him as speaking Mandarin Chinese was to me.

***I couldn't believe my ears!
"How can you ask me this
after seeing so many of your
countrymen die here today?"
I asked him. He told me that
two of his brothers were
killed just a few feet in front
of him in the line.***

In spite of this, I go back to President Franklin Roosevelt's speech which says, "Lives of nations are determined not by the count of years, but by the lifetime of the human spirit...The life of a nation is the fullness of the measure of its will to live. There are men who doubt this. There are men who believe that democracy, as a form of government and a frame of life, is limited or measured by a kind of mystical and artificial fate that, for some unexplained reason, tyranny and slavery have become the surging wave of the future, and that freedom is an ebbing tide."

I would argue that this was not true in America, nor will it be true in Iraq.

I base this belief on that rainy February day when I was part of the team that went to the Army recruitment center, about a mile from the Coalition Provisional Authority's high security compound. As about 300 Iraqis gathered outside its locked gates waiting for it to open, the suicide bomber blew himself up by the center.

On this day, Iraqi men had been killed as they stood in line to join. On the backdrop of "beige, – sand-colored buildings, uniforms, sand everywhere – the rain, which normally

cleaned the sand from date palm trees, today ran red with the blood of people who wanted their country back.

After my initial queasiness of seeing things I wish I could forget, an Iraqi man slightly older than me approached. Not knowing whether I should trust him or not, I told him to stop.

When he did not stop, my 9mm was out of my holster before I even realized it. A military policeman approached him and cleared him as a "good-guy."

With my adrenalin running high, I was trying to calm my nerves when he began speaking to me. His first question was as difficult for me to grasp as the surreal situation I found myself in. "When will the recruiting station open again?"

I couldn't believe my ears! "How can you ask me this after seeing so many of your countrymen die here today?" I asked him. He told me that two of his brothers were killed just a few feet in front of him in the line.

It was too much for me to come to terms with: the rain, the blood, the question. He stepped from my right side and came to face me, well inside my personal space. With eyes very difficult to read he told me, "I ask because I want to join."

My mind screamed, "How could he still want to join after seeing his brothers die there?" but my quietly spoken question was a single word, "Why?"

"Because," he said, "I want what you have – freedom."

FDR's speech sums up better than I ever could, what I felt when this man spoke those words. President Roosevelt said, "And a nation, like a person, has something deeper, something more permanent, something larger than the sum of all its parts. It is that something which matters most to its future, which calls forth the most sacred guarding of its present."

We need to remain in Iraq as long as it takes. We need to remain devoted to their fledging attempts to embrace a new way of life in their country's first free elections in 50 years. As FDR said, "Sometimes we fail to hear or heed these voices of freedom because to us the privilege of our freedom is such an old, old story."

Congratulations Retirees

Today
Master Sgt. Ian Halstead
Air Education and Training Command

Today
Charlotte Noll
12th Mission Support Squadron

Thursday
Chief Master Sgt. Ricky Padgett
Air Force Personnel Center

Retirement announcements should be submitted to the Wingspread office by noon Friday two weeks prior to the desired date of publication. E-mail announcements to randolph.retiree.messages@randolph.af.mil or fax them to 652-5412. For more information, call the Wingspread office at 652-5760.

Majors, lieutenant colonels picked for promotion

Ten lieutenant colonels and three majors received the good news Thursday morning they had been selected for promotion.

They are among 505 lieutenant colonels picked by the Colonel Central Selection Board and 76 majors tabbed by the Lieutenant Colonel Central Selection Board for promotion.

The CY04A colonel board considered 4,356 line of the Air Force, judge advocate general, chaplain, biomedical science corps and medical service corps officers for promotion.

The CY04C lieutenant colonel board considered 357 JAG, chaplain and MSC officers for promotion.

The list will be posted on the Web today by 2 p.m. at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/offprom/.

Colonel Promotions

Air Education and Training Command

Patrick Christopherson

Bruce Harmon

Richard Munsell

Gregory Tate

Mark Ward

Daniel Zalewski

12th Flying Training Wing

Thomas Goffuss

Michael Kennedy

Air Force Recruiting Service

Daniel Woolever

Air Force ROTC Southwest Region

Maurice Kilpatrick Jr.

Lieutenant Colonel Promotions

AETC

Joseph Aignervaroz

Bonnie Goodale

Air Force Legal Services Agency

Barbara Shestko

AFAF base representatives



Capt. Danah Rubalcaba
HQ AETC
652-4201



Capt. Jose Corella
AFPC
565-4266



Master Sgt. Joseph Gonzales
HQ 19th AF
652-7137



Capt. Zabrina Hoggard
AFRS
565-0317



Capt. Matthew Forsyth
12th OG
652-4878



Capt. Maureen Williams
12th MDG
652-4267



Master Sgt. Bobby Ross
12th MSG
652-2808



Capt. Johnny Bevers
12th FTW
652-6944



Tech. Sgt. Noe Dehoyos
AFMA
652-3100



Staff Sgt. Neely Yarborough
DFAS-SA
527-8233



1st Lt. Sol Velez
JPPSO
321-4211



Maj. Herbert Brown
100th FTS
652-1386



Master Sgt. Kevin Norton
AFSVA
652-8875

Not pictured

Master Sgt. Joe Jimenez
340th FTG
652-5302

Doug Boals
ROTC-SW
565-3892

Valentines for vets



2nd Lts. Grant Hosmer (left) and Zarine Malesra, Randolph Ambassadors, read a Valentine card to Oliver Gomez and his wife, Mary, during their visit to the Audie Murphy Veterans hospital Feb. 18. Colonel John Hesterman, 12th Flying Training Wing commander, Chief Master Sgt. Jeffrey Sargent, 12th FTW command chief and the Ambassadors visited with dozens of veterans in the surgery ward in observance of the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans. Randolph Elementary School students made the cards. (Photo by Melissa Peterson)

Civilians take over towers

By Renee Bassett
Intern staff writer

Pilots here will soon be hearing only the voices of civilians when they communicate with the towers.

Randolph Air Force Base transitions to an all-civilian air traffic controller force this year.

“The Randolph towers are civilianizing in an effort to provide a more stable workforce with a great deal of experience in our local procedures,” said Lt. Col. Keith Pannabecker, 12th Operations Support Squadron commander. “The concept should save the Air Force money.”

That concept stems, in part, from Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld’s plan to civilianize military positions wherever possible. The plan helps assign military air traffic controllers, a critically manned career field, to locations where they are most needed.

The 21 military controllers here will be reassigned to stateside and overseas bases.

At the completion of the transition, the ATC staff will consist of 20 civilian controllers with at least 10 years of experience. This is a reduction from the current 36 controllers here, 15 of whom are civilians.

The new controllers will be fully qualified to Air Force standards and will have watch supervisor experience. Randolph will man each tower with 10 controllers a day.

All civilian positions are government General Schedule and should be filled by the end of April, Colonel Pannabecker said.

The mission of 12th OSS Air Traffic Control is to ensure safe aircraft operations in the vicinity of Randolph, to include taxiing, takeoffs, landings and visual flight rule traffic pattern operations. The east tower operates seven days a week; the West tower operates Monday thru Friday. The towers handle 120,000 operations annually and control about a 5-mile radius of airspace.

Civilians remaining at Randolph for longer periods of time than military members provide more stability and knowledge of Randolph operations. Civilians require less training due to their experience level. There is also a greater continuity of operations because of limited turnover of the staff.

“The new controllers have 10-20 years experience,” said Charles Bailey, chief controller. “Pilots should be just as



Senior Airman Cliff McDonald and Tony Hylinski work side by side in the east control tower Feb. 18. (Photo by Renee Bassett)

comfortable with these more experienced civilian controllers as they were with the previous team.”

The civilian controllers consist of retired military, contract controllers from out of state and controllers leaving their military career to pursue this opportunity. Civilian controller Lynn Parsons, who joined the Randolph team late last year, isn’t new to military operations. She was a technical training instructor at Keesler AFB, Miss.

“I’ve always considered Randolph to be a plush location, and now I can work with experienced people who require minimal training,” said Ms. Parsons.

A number of other Air Education and Training Command bases will partially or completely civilianize their towers, said Douglas Fudge, assistant chief controller.

FSC offers credit seminar

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

The family support center, in conjunction with the Randolph-Brooks Federal Credit Union, is offering a “Credit when Credit is Due” seminar, covering topics from financial decision making to tips for rebuilding credit.

The seminar is offered Tuesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the family support center.

“This seminar is great for people who need more information about credit, whether they need help establishing it, attempting to rebuild

it, or wanting to acquire skills to help them manage it efficiently,” said Steve Mayfield, personal financial management program manager. “This seminar provides information that is useful for everyone. Credit management is an integral aspect of life in our society.”

Topics covered include financial-decision making, building and rebuilding credit, auto loans and leases, mortgage loans, bankruptcy and understanding the credit process.

Upon completion of the course, attendees are registered in a national database and sent a registration card identifying them to lenders as graduates of a national and standard-

ized credit education program, said Mr. Mayfield.

Attendees also receive three cards addressed to three major credit bureaus allowing them to add a positive statement to their credit reports.

Active duty members, civilian and family members may attend. To sign up, call 652-5321.

The fee is normally \$50 for the seminar, but the credit union will pay the entire fee for all credit union members, and they will pay half of the fee for non-members.

A \$10 registration fee is required to be paid in advance, but is refunded after completion of the class.

Tops in Blue performs at Randolph

By 2nd Lt. Angelic Cardenas
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Everyone in the Randolph community is invited to an evening of free entertainment when the Air Force Tops In Blue performs Wednesday at 7 p.m. in Hangar 4.

Officials with the 12th Services Division, organizers of the event, said it’s a highly acclaimed show that is part of this year’s slate of activities celebrating the 75th anniversary of Randolph.

Entitled “Musicology,” the show includes an intricate

mix of the musical sounds of America. Through the creative use of technology, Tops In Blue presents action-packed performances showcasing hits with their own special spin.

This year’s show features renditions from artists such as the Brian Setzer Orchestra, Chaka Kahn, The Commodores, Madonna, Ray Charles, Martina McBride, Celine Dion and the Blues Brothers.

“Tops in Blue has provided excellent entertainment for the force’s Airmen for over 50 years,” said Shelta Reese, 12th Services Division marketing director.

The Tops In Blue tour schedule features more than 150 shows worldwide including performances for forward-deployed troops in the Middle East.

The show is 90 minutes long and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. The doors open at 6:15 p.m. People coming from off base are encouraged to use the east gate for best access to Hangar 4.

Coca-Cola and AT&T sponsor the tour. During the show, there is a drawing for a 1,000-minute calling card courtesy of AT&T.

NEWS BRIEFS

Credit cards only during gas station work

During the Feb. 28 through March 8 renovation of the cashier’s kiosk at the base gas station, customers will only be able to pay with credit cards 23 hours each day. There will not be an attendant available for cash and check purchases during this period.

Girl Scout flag retreat ceremony

The annual Girl Scout Flag Retreat ceremony is March 8 from 4:45-5:45 p.m. at the flagpole in front of the Robert D. Gaylor Airman Leadership School, Building 66. This event marks the 93rd anniversary of the Girl Scouts.

Team Randolph Medallion Ceremony

Everyone in the Randolph community is invited to cheer on their nominees in the 2004 Team Randolph Annual Awards competition during a medallion ceremony March 3 at 9 a.m. in the base theater.

At that time, the military members and civilians from all base units contending for the title of “Randolph’s best of the year” are announced and given medallions for their accomplishments.

The awards will be presented later that evening at a banquet. Since seating is limited at the banquet, organizers of the awards program encourage friends, families and co-workers to show their support at the medallion ceremony.

Winners will be announced in the March 11 issue of the Wingspread.

Main gate marquee out of service

A fence around phase II of the main gate and Harmon Drive construction project has blocked the view of the electronic marquee. Therefore, public affairs will not post any marquee announcements until the marquee is once again in view. Phase II of the project is scheduled to last until fall 2005

People can post announcements in the Wingspread by e-mailing them to wingspread@randolph.af.mil. People can also place messages on the Commander’s Access Channel, channel 21 on base televisions, by calling the wing public affairs office.

For more details about the marquee or placing an announcement, call public affairs at 652-2305.

Air Force Aid scholarship applications due

Applications for the Air Force Aid Society’s Henry H. Arnold Education Grant scholarships must be received by March 11. As many as 4,500 of the \$1,500 scholarships are offered each year to dependent children of Airmen on active duty, in Guard or Reserve units performing full time duty, retired or deceased. Spouses of active duty and deceased Airmen are also eligible.

Applicants must be enrolled as full-time undergraduate students at accredited colleges or universities during the 2005-2006 academic year.

For more information and application forms, visit the AFAS Web site at www.afas.org or call 1-800-429-9475.

Airport gate passes for family members

The Transportation Security Administration has issued a security directive pertaining to American military passengers at U.S. airports.

According to TSA Security Directive 1544-01-10w, Access to Sterile Concourses for Non-traveling Individuals, family members of military passengers may be given a pass to escort the military passenger to a gate and to meet a military passenger’s inbound arrival at a gate.

“The guidance is specifically for military members deploying or returning from deployment and must be coordinated with the air carrier,” said Lynda Johnson of the TSA at San Antonio International Airport. “This is not intended for military members traveling on leave to another duty station, PCSing to another duty station or leisure travel.”

Family members should go to the airline the military member is flying on to receive a gate pass. They are required to have the pass and photo identification to get through security checkpoints.

Environmental soil assessment

A drilling rig will collect soil samples at several locations Feb. 28 through March 3. The sites are in the commissary east parking lot, south of the auto hobby shop, near the corrosion control Building 230, and near the horse stables.

AFPC officer gains perspective in Djibouti

By Capt. Brandon Lingle
AFPC Public Affairs

Lt. Col. Jim Mont admits he didn't know why the Horn of Africa was important to the Global War on Terrorism when he received deployment orders to go there.

He's due to return next month and as his time in Africa winds down he said he's gained a new appreciation for the concept of defeating terrorism by winning people's hearts and minds.

This is a sizable task when you consider 659 million people live on the Horn of Africa.

The Air Force Personnel Center's chief of rated recall programs is one of 50 Airmen in the 1,400-member joint coalition currently working to enhance the long-term stability of the region.

"CJTF-HOA is a very unique operation," said Colonel Mont, who is serving as the director of personnel recovery forces in Djibouti. He is responsible for oversight of detachments of Air Force HC-130s, pararescue, Marine helicopters and Army force protection specialists.

"Our job is to assist any isolated personnel as required and one of our biggest challenges is the 'tyranny of distance and time,'" he said.

The task force's area of operations includes Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen. This area is equal to two thirds of the U.S., with nearly as much coastline, according to Colonel Mont.

"Some of our operations here would be the same as launching out of Tinker Air Force Base, Okla., on helicopters, to fly over the Rockies to San Francisco, Calif.," he said.

One rescue following the recent Tsunami disaster highlighted the true team mentality of the international coalition, according to Colonel Mont. When Somalia's Hafun Peninsula was transformed into an island by the Tsunamis, the people were isolated and the Somali government requested assistance by contacting the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, Kenya.

"We elected to utilize a German ship that had helicopters on board for the rescue. They were able to make several flights to the area with food and water for the isolated individuals," he said. "So in the final analysis, we had a government that is not recognized by the U.S., requesting assistance from the State Department, who in turn asked the Department of Defense, who coordinated with a coalition partner, to effect the rescue."



Lt. Col. Jim Mont, director of personnel recovery forces for Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa in Djibouti, uses satellite communications to talk with rescue forces. Colonel Mont is the Air Force Personnel Center's chief of rated recall programs when not deployed. (Photo by Sgt. Brian McElaney)

Retired Chief of Chaplain Services plants message of hope

Strong spiritual life, positive perspective play major role in times of adversity

By 1st Lt. LaShonda Bush
12th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

Two things have a way of bringing people together, regardless of personal preference: food and faith.

On Tuesday, Randolph members assembled at the enlisted club to enjoy these common denominators at the base National Prayer Breakfast hosted by the chapel. The event was a type of filling station for the body and spirit.

This year's guest speaker was retired Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Lorraine Potter, former Chief of Air Force Chaplain Services. In her speech entitled, "Where is God," Chaplain Potter encouraged the audience by telling them to look for the good in the tough situations of life by seeing things through the eyes of faith.

"Two people can go through the same situation, but perspective is what makes the difference," said Chaplain Potter.

During this time of war, members of the Armed Forces are faced with difficult decisions to make, trials to face and challenges to overcome, said the chaplain.

"As we fight this war on terror, our eyes of faith help us to not be afraid of the terror of the night."

Many in attendance were moved by her words of inspiration, throughout the room heads nodded in agreement with her thoughts.

"Her words brought into perspective how we have the power, through God, to change how we view our lives and the situations that arise," said Airman 1st Class Jessica Reyes, 12th Mission Support Squadron outbound assignments representative. "It opened my eyes a little more to seek for good in the bad. It makes us realize that what our country is going through is a small battle and we will prevail."

Through stories of historical figures who faced adverse situations, the chaplain demonstrated how even in difficult times, such as war, people have to be willing to look past their immediate troubles to the more significant purpose. She stressed that a strong spiritual life plays a major role in achieving this objective and members in attendance agreed.

Master Sgt. Michael Gadson, a law office

manager for the 12th Flying Training Wing Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, attended the breakfast and shared his thoughts about the chaplains' remarks on the importance of servicemembers having a faith-based mindset during this time of war.

"As military members, we come face-to-face with our mortality as a part of the noble profession of arms. This makes it even more important to have that spiritual connection," said Sergeant Gadson.

As the battles continue, people should not focus on one aspect of despair, said the chaplain, but look internally and understand we are all agents of change for the world and whether active duty or civilian any contribution is significant.

After the breakfast, 2nd Lt. Jonathan Beha, 563rd Flying Training Squadron, said regardless of how people contribute, whether helping a co-worker or volunteering for a charity, it's about looking past self and serving others.

"I feel that regardless of a servicemember's individual beliefs and practices, there is a common bond of serving something greater than ourselves,"



Retired Chaplain (Maj. Gen.) Lorraine Potter (Photo by Steve White)

said Lieutenant Beha. "This service is something that crosses the boundaries of enlisted, officer or civilian."

General Myers confirms capabilities of military

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Despite stresses and strains on the force, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff told members of the House Armed Services Committee Feb. 16 that the American military remains able to execute America's national military strategy.

"We are now in our fourth year of sustained combat operations," Gen. Richard Myers said. "We are still a nation at war. Our servicemen and women continue to perform superbly under conditions of significant stress and in the face of myriad challenges. They stand ready to protect the United States, prevent conflict and surprise attack, and prevail against adversaries."

General Myers said the military has had significant successes against a shadowy and dangerous enemy. "We and our partners have captured or killed many of al-Qaida's senior leaders and hurt their ability to conduct operations," he said. "But they are still a very real, global threat." The

general added that the military will continue to hunt down terrorist leaders such as Osama bin Laden and Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

General Myers stressed that, while the U.S. military is being successful, it must have multinational allies and interagency cooperation to be victorious.

"While I believe the various agencies of our government have learned to work together in new and better ways, we need to become still more efficient and effective in integrating the efforts of various government agencies," he said.

Building Iraqi capabilities is the key to success in Iraq, the general said, and a timetable for American withdrawal from the country would be "counterproductive." A timetable would lead terrorists into thinking they could wait America out, he said.

Iraqi forces are assuming a greater share of the security role, he said, and the recent national-assembly elections "represented a moral defeat for the insurgents."

As the coalition moves to the future, the objective must

be to shift from the coalition providing security to building counterinsurgency capabilities in Iraqi forces, he said.

In Afghanistan, the plan also is on track, General Myers said. The Afghan army is 19,000 members strong and is a "multiethnic, visible symbol of national pride, unity and strength," he said. The United States and coalition allies will continue to build that capability, he said.

But Iraq and Afghanistan are not the only hotspots. General Myers said the threat of weapons of mass destruction, "particularly North Korea's and Iran's ongoing nuclear weapons-related activities," worry military planners.

Terrorist organizations also wish to acquire stronger and more deadly weapons, the chairman said, and the confluence of terror groups and nations willing to provide the groups with weapons is disturbing.

General Myers said servicemembers remain America's "No. 1 asset." He said morale in all components remains high, but the department must revisit reserve-component mobilization processes.

Living a double life

Airman serves in more ways than one

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

In uniform he protects the base. Out of uniform he volunteers his extra time giving back to the community.

Airman 1st Class Kevin Siharath, assigned to the 12th Security Forces Squadron here, does a variety of duties from guarding and patrolling the base to armory detail.

But when he is not helping make the base a safer place, he dons a different role of service by volunteering his spare time at the base youth center.

“I started volunteering at the youth center in October of last year,” said Airman Siharath. “I used to volunteer at a local YMCA before joining the military, and I’ve always enjoyed working with kids.”

The youth center provides the teens with a stable environment, giving them opportunities to see different places and

experience different things they may not otherwise, said Airman Siharath.

Airman Siharath volunteers with teens ages 13-18. He spends an average of six hours per week volunteering his time with the youth.

“I get to do a lot of different things with them, such as talking with them, playing games and even taking field trips together,” said the Airman. “Sometimes the teens need someone to talk to and they don’t always feel like confiding in an older adult or staff member. I try to be there for them, whether they want to talk about school problems they are having or if they just want to tell me about their day.”

We recently visited injured Soldiers and their family members at the Fisher House, said the Airman. “The teens and I baked them cupcakes and decorated their area with Valentine decorations. That is by far the most memorable moment I have spent with the kids from the youth center. We all had the chance to give back to those who serve.”

Airman Siharath joined the Air Force in July 2003. Randolph is his first assignment.

“I joined the military because I wanted a chance to have a good education and I wanted



Airman 1st Class Kevin Siharath uses radar to monitor the speed of traffic on base. (Photos by Jennifer Valentin)

to serve my country,” he said. “My next assignment, which I leave for in April, is at Misawa Air Base in Japan.”

After his six-year enlistment in the Air Force, Airman Siharath plans to have finished pursuing his bachelor’s degree in criminology. He wants to join the Office of Special Investigations at Misawa.

“Kevin is a great addition to the youth volunteer pool,” said Rodney Tramble, director of youth programs. “His dedication is second to none and he’s truly the ideal role model. He’s respected by the teens and they enjoy the time he spends in the facility.”

What’s for dinner?

Randolph Health and Wellness Center ‘cooks up’ healthy classes

By Jennifer Valentin
Wingspread staff writer

Want to shed those winter pounds and learn how to cook some different, healthier recipes? Or just looking for some new meals to make? Then come to the Health and Wellness Center’s healthy cooking classes March 11 and 25 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

“I try to teach the students different recipes that are healthy for them, and simple to prepare as well,” said Senior Airman Vanessa Green, class teacher. “Most people think it is easier to grab something to go for a quick meal, and don’t often get the nutrition they need. I can show them quick and easy meals that are healthier for them.”

The HAWC offered the cooking class for the first time in January.



“The first class was a chance for me to see what people’s interests are,” said Airman Green. “As the classes go on, I can see what the participants are interested in, and gear the classes towards that.”

The cooking class is beneficial because it gives people information on how to eat right, by not cutting foods out of their diet, but by replacing some of the food they eat with healthier substitutes, said Airman Green.

Participants also learn how many calories they should eat to help them lose weight, maintain their ideal weight and even, in some cases, gain weight if necessary.

“People leave the class with a variety of new information, including food preparation, food substitutions, weight loss tips, and the most important, portion control,” said Airman Green.

“If anyone does have suggestions or knows a group of people interested in a particular type of class, they can contact me at the HAWC at 652-2300 and I can see about setting up a class for them,” said Airman Green.

Early sign-up is recommended as each class has only eight slots available and they fill up quickly.

Sports and Fitness

Driving the lane



Pedro Cantu (left), 12th Security Forces Squadron, barrels past the defense of 12th Civil Engineering Squadron team members Renee Hinojosa (middle) and Nate Gleason to drive the lane for a 2-point shot. 12th SFS defeated 12th CES 49-41. (Photo by Steve White)

SPORTS BRIEFS

Ro-Hawks basketball win
The Randolph Ro-Hawks boy’s basketball team defeated Devine High School 57-56 Saturday at Devine.

WHM fun run/walk
A Women’s History Month 5k fun run/walk is March 4 at 11 a.m. at Eberle Park.
To sign up before March 1, call 1st Lt. Alejandra Czerniak at 652-4770.

St Patrick’s Day Dash
A St. Patrick’s Day Dash is March 17 at 7 a.m. at Eberle Park. There is no pre-registration required and the first 150 participants to sign up on race day receive a T-shirt.
This event is free and open to all Department of Defense ID cardholders.

Aerobics class change
Beginning in March, aerobics classes at the fitness center will be held Thursdays at 10 a.m.

TOPS
The Take Off Pounds Sensibly support group is Mondays at 9 a.m.
For more information, call 658-9750 or 667-1552.

Self defense class
A self defense class is offered March 3 at 7 p.m. at the fitness center. The basics of self defense will be taught. To sign up, call 652-4311.